

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT E. CUSHMAN, JR., USMC

Lieutenant General Robert Everton Cushman, Jr., who earned the Navy Cross during World War II, is now serving as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam.

As a lieutenant colonel, General Cushman was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism from July 21 to August 20, 1944, while commanding the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, during the recapture of Guam. His citation states in part:

"When his battalion was ordered to seize and hold a strongly organized and defended enemy strongpoint which had been holding up the advance for some days, on July 25, Lieutenant Colonel Cushman directed the attacks of his battalion and the repulse of numerous Japanese counterattacks, fearlessly exposing himself to heavy hostile rifle, machine gun and mortar fire in order to remain in the front lines and obtain firsthand knowledge of the enemy situation. Following three days of bitter fighting culminating in a heavy Japanese counterattack which pushed back the flank of his battalion on July 28, he personally led a platoon into the gap and, placing it for defense, repelled the hostile force. By his inspiring leadership, courage and devotion to duty, he contributed materially to the success of the mission with the annihilation of one enemy battalion and the rout of another..."

Born December 24, 1914, in St. Paul, Minnesota, Robert E. Cushman attended Central High School there, and at sixteen was appointed to the U. S. Naval Academy. Upon graduation from the Academy, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant, June 6, 1935.

Lieutenant Cushman completed Marine Officer's Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, then served briefly at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California. In February 1936, he arrived in Shanghai, China, serving with the 4th Marines, and later the 2d Marine Brigade, as a platoon commander. On his return to the United States in March 1938, he served at naval shipyards in Brooklyn, New York, and Portsmouth, Virginia. He was promoted to first lieutenant in August 1938.

In April 1939, Lieutenant Cushman was assigned to the Marine Detachment at the New York World's Fair, and was subsequently stationed at the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia. He was promoted to captain in March 1941.

In June 1941, Captain Cushman went aboard the USS PENNSYLVANIA at San Diego, en route to Pearl Harbor, as Commanding Officer of the ship's Marine Detachment. He was serving in this capacity when the Japanese attacked the ship and other naval installations at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Upon his transfer from the PENNSYLVANIA, he joined the 9th Marines at San Diego as a battalion executive officer in May 1942, and that same month was promoted to major.

With his unit Major Cushman moved to Camp Pendleton in September 1942 and embarked for the Pacific area in January 1943. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in May 1943.

That month Lieutenant Colonel Cushman was appointed Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines. During the two years he held that post, he led his battalion repeatedly into combat, earning the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" on Bougainville, the Navy Cross during the recapture of Guam, and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" during the Iwo Jima campaign.

On his return to the United States in May 1945, Lieutenant Colonel Cushman was stationed at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, for three years. During that period he completed the Senior School, served as an instructor in the Command and Staff School, and during the latter two years was Supervisory Instructor, Amphibious Warfare School. In June 1948, he was named Head of the Amphibious Warfare Branch, Office of Naval Research, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. From October 1949 until May 1951, he served at Headquarters Marine Corps. While there he was promoted to colonel in May 1950.

In June 1951, Colonel Cushman joined the Staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Fleet, in London, England, serving as Amphibious Plans Officer until June 1953. Following his return to the United States, he was transferred to Norfolk, Virginia, as a member of the faculty of the Armed Forces Staff College, and in July 1954 became Director of the Plans and Operations Division there. In July 1956, he assumed command of the 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Assigned to Washington, D. C., in February 1957, he served four years on the staff of former Vice President Richard Nixon, as Assistant to the Vice President of the United States for National Security Affairs. While serving in this capacity, he was promoted to brigadier general in July 1958.

Following his departure from Washington, General Cushman became Assistant Division Commander, 3d Marine Division, on Okinawa, in March 1961. He was promoted to major general in August 1961, and in September assumed command of the 3d Marine Division.

In July 1962, the general returned to Headquarters Marine Corps where he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence) and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 (Plans, Operations and Training). In December 1963, he was reassigned as Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff. The following month, he was named Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, and served in this capacity until June 1964.

For meritorious achievement as Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton/Commanding General, 4th Marine Division Headquarters Nucleus from June 1964 until March 1967, General Cushman was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. From June 1966 to November 1966, he performed additional duty as Commanding General, 5th Marine Division.

Ordered to the Far East in April 1967, he served briefly as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam. Advanced to the rank of lieutenant general on June 1, 1967, he assumed his current assignment.

A complete list of the general's medals and decorations includes: the Navy Cross, Legion of Merit with Combat "V", Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", the Navy Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with one star indicative of a second award, China Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal with Fleet clasp, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one silver star in lieu of five bronze stars, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal with Europe clasp, and National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star.

General Cushman and his wife, the former Audrey Boyce of Portsmouth, Virginia, have two children, Roberta Lind and Robert Everton III.

(Revised Jun 1967 HQMC)